

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 17 Dec 1953

SUBJECT Explanation of Moscow's Double-Number Address System

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [] 25X1

NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE []

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION []

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Q. Many Moscow buildings are identified by two numbers separated by a diagonal line, e g, 3/5, 1/17. In some cases this dual number seems to indicate a consecutive series of either odd or even numbers which correspond to a given area on that street. In other cases, the numbers are not consecutive or are mixtures of both odd and even numbers, e g, 16/2, 39/12. One explanation offered for such numbers is that the building is situated at the corner of two streets, and the first number refers to the named street, while the second number applies to the cross street. Can you confirm, refute, or provide additional information on this subject of dual house numbers?

1. A. The above explanation of dual house numbers appearing on corner buildings is correct, but I shall attempt to provide some further information on the numbering system. To begin with it should be pointed out that Moscow buildings are usually quite large as they include large apartment houses or government buildings. Each building has only one address and often there is only one address on an entire block. Buildings are always numbered consecutively, with odd numbers on one side of the street and even numbers on the other. There is no system of numbering buildings by "hundreds" such as 5400-5402-5404 for the "54 hundred block" with the next block being the 5500 block. In Moscow the buildings are numbered consecutively along the street without regard to blocks. As there are varying numbers of buildings on each block, it is not unusual to find a large gap between numbers on opposite sides of a street.

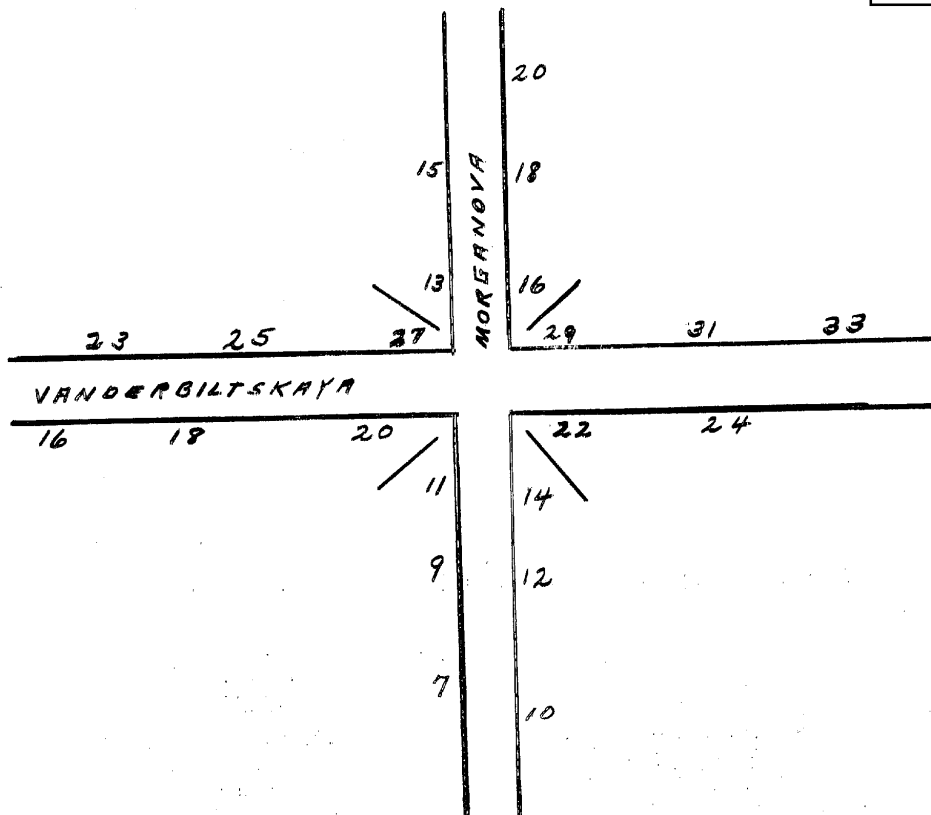
2. [] the only exception to the consecutive mounting of address numbers occurs on certain very large thoroughfares which are segmented. That is, a street may go along for many blocks under one name and then its name arbitrarily changes for a distance. Whenever the names change like this, even though the street is the same one physically, the sequence of address numbers starts over at one and two on both sides of the street. This situation could result in apparent inconsistencies.
3. The sketch below attempts to illustrate the double-numbering of corner buildings. It shows the hypothetical intersection of Morganova and Vanderbilt'skaya. Assuming that Morganova runs due north and south, it is seen that the southeast corner turns up with two even numbers, the northwest corner building has two odd numbers, and the southwest and northeast corners have mixed numbers.

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4. The corner address number given first is the one which applies to the street on which the building has its main entrance. The second number applies to the street on the side of the building. Whether the second number is odd or even tells on which corner the building is located.

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